

For Immediate Release

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High Gas Prices Not Discouraging Gourd Art Festival Attendees for the 15th Annual

June 10, 2011, Fallbrook, CA: Rising gas prices won't be keeping over 5,000 gourd art enthusiast, over half of whom come from out of State, from visiting the Welburn Gourd Farm in Fallbrook, CA for the 15th and Final Gourd Art Festival, being held on Saturday, June 25th and Sunday, June 26th 2011.

As one recent gourd enthusiast commented, "The Gourd Festival was such a blast! Set in such gorgeous scenery. With so much to do, so many beautiful works of art to see, entertainment, and food. Can't wait to visit again this year."

"People travel from all the way across the country for this event, some even from outside the U.S.," says Marketing Director, Phoebe Welburn. "There is definitely a group of 'hard core' gourd-ers, as we call them, who will travel any distance for this event. These are the people who have been involved with gourds for many years, and the biggest attraction for them is to see the art itself and also to take gourd art classes from some of the top instructors in the industry."

Many fantastic artists will also make their way across the country to participate in this year's event. Artists such as Mark and Karen Klay from Tucson, Arizona, Gloria Crane from Hesperia, California, and George Nan from Socorro, New Mexico and 40 others will be exhibiting their incredible work.

Many artists also do double duty as instructors, making the event even more attractive for serious gourd-lovers who want to learn directly from the artists. A total of 38 gourd art classes are scheduled for the 21st, 22nd and 23rd, the Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday before the festival. "The classes are full-day classes," explains Laura Cunningham, Project Coordinator at the farm, "so we cannot have them run at the same time as the Festival because people would miss out on enjoying all the attractions at the event."

Those interested in signing up for gourd art classes can see descriptions and photos on the Gourd Art Festival web site at www.GourdFestival.com or by calling the Welburn Gourd Farm at 760-728-4271.

Gourds, which were once considered only for making birdhouses and craft items, have now emerged as a popular canvas for fine artwork, some selling for upwards of \$25,000, and the Gourd Art Festival is the place where the artists can showcase their work.

For festival admission, adult tickets are \$12 at the gate or \$9 when you buy in advance on the web site. Children 12 and under are admitted free. General parking is free, and VIP parking is \$20 per car. Dogs are not permitted except for handicapped assist animals. To purchase tickets and get more information, visit www.GourdFestival.com or call 760-728-4271.

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